

Models for Integrating Mainstream Programs

General Strategies for Integrating Mainstream Programs

- Place a homeless housing liaison staff person, who can help homeless people connect to mainstream services and liaison with local non-profit service providers, in regional public assistance offices.
- Generate and maintain weekly updated homeless client lists so shelters and service providers can work to match clients' needs with mainstream services.
- Provide case managers to accompany the homeless to mainstream program offices and help in the eligibility process.
- Provide for 24-hour centralized intake and assessment.
- Facilitate enrollment in mainstream programs through collaborative case management.
- Provide physical transportation to program and eligibility sites.
- Liaison with mainstream programs to ensure the most current information on eligibility and procedures are shared.
- Develop a formal service agreement between homeless service providers if clients apply for any services or become eligible to receive services.
- Use a community partnership model to develop relationships between non-profits providers, local mainstream service providers and state departments.
- Create a single intake form to determine eligibility for all mainstream services.
- Verify an individual or household's status on eligibility at the Continuum of Care intake point.

Specific Strategies for Integrating Medicaid & CHIP

- Place Outreach eligibility workers in shelters and transitional housing to assure health program enrollment
- Use one application for Medicaid and CHIP Program
- Provide transportation to enrollment sites.
- Place insurance eligibility personnel in Health Centers.
- Train staff to conduct extensive outreach at area shelters.
- Enter into a written agreement to develop a formal referral system for homeless clients.
- Place eligibility workers at Continuum of Care entry points.

Specific Strategies for Integrating Mental Health Block Grant & Substance Abuse Block Grant

- Conduct mental health assessment during intake process at shelters.
- Exchange outcomes of services, between homeless providers and mental health/substance abuse providers.

- Target outreach to individuals who are street homeless, chronically mentally ill, and/or chronic substance abusers.
- Make direct referrals for services at intake if services are needed.
- Use a mobile support team for outreach and to bring clients in for mainstream services and case management.
- Enter into a written agreement to train staff of homeless agency on programs and services administered through block grants.
- Identify key contact persons to resolve barriers to services and develop a formal referral system.

Specific Strategies for Integrating Supplemental Security Income

- Utilize a disability advocacy program to assist persons with disabilities.
- Use the advocacy program to connect case managers with homeless persons to help them identify and obtain benefits.

Specific Strategies for Integrating Food Stamps Program

- Distribute information and conduct presentation at shelters, transitional housing, and places where the homeless congregate.
- Enter into a written agreement with local eligibility offices to improve collaboration and develop strategies that will help homeless persons access services more easily.

Specific Strategies for Integrating Employment and Training Services

- Use presentations as a means of outreach to local homeless shelters and transitional housing programs.
- Place mental health, substance abuse, public housing, and public assistance staff on-site at centers.
- Provide case managers to work with clients and training centers to identify barriers to employment.